Welcome to the Washington Transportation Plan News Alert - WSDOT is introducing this bi-monthly news service to keep you informed of new developments and directions of our update to the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP). To continue receiving this update, you can sign up for our list serve by visiting the address below.

Why should you care about the WTP? For starters:

It is the blueprint that looks forward 20 years and defines direction for state transportation programs and investments. As such we think it is important for you to know about it, and for us to hear from you.

The plan is data driven - not built on assumptions that may have once been true - but to confirm with data, facts and information the current state of conditions and needed future directions.

There are ten issue areas which we are researching in the WTP . They are:

> Preserving the system
> System Efficiencies
> Safety
> Transportation Access
> Bottlenecks and Chokepoints
> Economy and Jobs
> Freight
> Future Visions
> Health and Environment
> Funding and Regionalism

Identifying and understanding the interrelationships between these issues is essential to creating a practical plan to improve transportation in our state.

The WTP is intended to be the basis for an investment proposal to the legislature in 2007, but early learning may shape discussions in the 2005 legislative session.

It is clear from our work so far that:

Demands for transportation system are up, and have been for years.
> Population has grown 45% Washington State since 1980.
> There are over a million new jobs have been created since 1980.
> Vehicle miles traveled are up 91% since 1980.
Funds for transportation are not there to do what needs to be done.
> Even with the "2003 Transportation Package" funding is down or flat.
Aging and deterioration of our state's transportation system will require spending more and more just to "stay in place."

To learn more about the WTP, visit our website: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/

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